

St Martin de Porres



ST MARTIN DE PORRES SCHOOL

# EXTREME WEATHER POLICY

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## **RATIONALE**

The SACCS Duty of Care Policy states:

*“Duty of Care relates to the law of negligence and, simply, it means that teachers and schools owe a duty to students to take all reasonable measures to protect their safety and welfare. If an injury results from a teacher’s or a school’s failure to exercise the required standard of care, a negligence claim may result.”*

St Martin de Porres School is committed to ensuring that all students in our care are safe and their wellbeing is maintained.

## **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all St. Martin de Porres students and staff and shall be followed as outlined below.

## **PROCEDURE**

A decision regarding weather conditions will be made by a member of the Leadership Team/Front Office Staff prior to the commencement of the play period and announced over the PA system.

### **Recess and Lunch Time**

#### Hot Weather

If the temperature is 34°C or above at recess or lunch (after checking the BOM website <http://bom.gov.au/weather>), an announcement will be made prior to the break. Children will remain in classrooms and teachers will share the supervision.

#### Wet Weather

On days of extreme weather such as wind, rain, hail or thunderstorms, staff at St Martin de Porres School will exercise duty of care and implement a “no outside activities” procedure. This may include reduced playtime or no outdoor playtime.

### **General Procedures**

- Teaching staff will work in pairs for supervision so that they can go to the staff room for a break.
- Students to remain in their allocated indoor area.
- Student activities should be suitable for the classroom environment.
- Students leaving area to go to the toilet or canteen must receive teacher’s permission to do so.
- Where an excursion is planned, Leadership will determine the safety of the excursion and advise if it should continue. If it is decided that the excursion be cancelled, the excursion where possible may be rescheduled.
- When it is wet but not raining, the oval grassed areas and sand pit may be deemed out of bounds. Students may play on the paved and court areas unless the conditions of these are very wet. Teachers will be notified this formally via Leadership/Front Office Staff on the day.

### **Before School Inclement Weather**

If there is inclement weather, as defined by Leadership/Front Office Staff, classrooms will be open from 8.30am. If a teacher is absent, a member of Leadership will open the classroom until the relief teacher arrives at the school or other arrangements are made.

**After School Inclement Weather**

In the event of extreme weather at the end of the school day, students will stay under the verandah outside the library and wait for directions from the teachers on duty.

If the weather is extreme before home time, parents are permitted to collect their child(ren) from their class up to 20 minutes prior to the end of the school day to help relieve congestion in the car park. An announcement will be made over the PA system at an agreed time (no more than 20 minutes) for parents to collect their child(ren) without signing them out at the Front Office.

**Competition Sports**

On the days where the estimated maximum is 34°C, interschool and competitive sport may be cancelled. This decision will be made in collaboration with Leadership and other school teams by the host school following discussions. The procedure will also apply to days of wet weather.

**School Closure**

St Martin de Porres School will not be closed because of extremely hot weather: however, if a parent requests to take their child(ren), they will not be discouraged. It is expected that activities taken by the class will be modified to be suitable to the environment and any extremes in the weather.

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ENDORSEMENT DETAILS

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Review Date         | October 2017   |
| Date of Next Review | October 2020   |
| Endorsed by:        | <p>_____</p> <p>(Board Chairperson)</p> <p>Date: _____</p><br><p>_____</p> <p>(Principal)</p> <p>Date: _____</p> |